

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user interface for an smart watch device, the smart watch device having a graphical user interface including a display and at least one input element, the method comprising:

A3 displaying an information screen using a first transparency mask in a display foreground;

displaying superimposing at least one control image using a second transparency mask in a display background, the display background appearing behind the display foreground, the control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device when the input element is activated; and

associating the control image with the input element.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an activation signal from the input element.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising performing the task associated with the input element after the activation signal is received.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of associating further comprises positioning the virtual control image proximate the input element.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting control signals to an electronic device, the electronic device having a graphical user interface including a display and at least one input element, the method comprising:

generating ~~an~~ a transparent information screen;
generating a transparent control screen having at least one control image;
associating the control image with the input element;
combining the information screen and the control screen into a composite screen
such that the information screen and the control screen appear in ~~an overlapping~~ a watermark
fashion; and
displaying the composite screen in the display.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the associating operation includes positioning the control image proximate the input element.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the information screen appears in front of the control screen.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the generating the control screen operation includes indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device when the input element is activated.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the control screen appears in front of the information screen.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the operation of receiving an activation signal from the input element.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the operation of performing the task associated with the input element after the activation signal is received.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for inputting control signals to an electronic device, the electronic device having a graphical user interface including a display and at least one input element, the computer process comprising:

generating with an alpha channel an information screen;
generating with an alpha channel a control screen having at least one control image;
associating the control image with the input element;
~~combining~~ blending the information screen and the control screen into a composite screen such that both the information screen and the control screen appear as full screens in an overlapping fashion; and
displaying the composite screen ~~in~~ on the entire display.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the act of ~~combining~~ blending in the computer process comprises alpha blending the information screen and the control screen such that the information screen appears in front of the control screen.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the act of generating the control screen in the computer process further comprises indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device when the input element is activated.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the act of ~~combining~~ blending in the computer process comprises alpha blending the information screen and the control screen such that the control screen appears in front of the information screen.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the computer process further comprises receiving an activation signal from the input element.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the computer process further comprises performing the task associated with the input element after the activation signal is received.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for inputting characters to an electronic device, the electronic device having a graphical user interface including a display and a plurality of input elements, the method comprising~~ The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the computer process further comprises:

~~displaying an information screen in a display foreground;~~

~~displaying a control screen in a display background, the display background appearing behind the display foreground;~~

loading a character set, the character set including a plurality of individual characters;

dividing the character set into character subsets;

representing the character subsets in the control screen;

receiving a selection signal for one of the character subsets;

narrowing the range of the selectable character set to the selected character subset;

and

repeating the dividing, representing, receiving, and narrowing operations until a selection of one of the individual characters is made.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the representing operation includes the operation of providing control images for the character subsets.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further including the operation of associating the control images with the input elements.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the associating operation includes positioning the control images proximate the input elements.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including the operation of generating a selection signal from the input elements.

32. (Canceled)